

Wendover Ashbrook Allotment Association Limited

Newsletter – Spring 2016

Finally it looks as if spring has arrived. The sun, when it makes an appearance, is warm now and although the wind is cold the ground has become workable. The few weeks at the end of March and early April are always a busy time on the allotment as we rediscover our favourite spades and forks, check to see if power tools will work and start to prepare for planting. I know some of you are ahead of the game but I usually make a serious start around the Easter break hoping that late frosts won't spoil my plans.

The shareholder's Annual General Meeting was held on the 20th January 2016. We had planned to meet earlier but were delayed by the busy run-up to Xmas. In the event, the meeting was well attended by shareholders and several tenants. We also welcomed seven new shareholders; these being tenants who had been invited to take up shares in the Association after due consideration of their length of tenancy and standard of plot maintenance.

The Treasurer, Neville Morton, presented the accounts, which were unanimously approved and the AGM re-elected the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and existing committee members to serve for another year:

Bob Bulpett (chairman), John Currell (secretary), Neville Morton (treasurer), Sharon Peters, Mary Tanner, Francis Biggerstaff, Rachel Kingston, Peter Lockett and Ken Parkins. Additionally Rebecca Miller will attend committee meetings as Website administrator.

MANAGEMENT

The management of the allotment site in terms of tenancies and plot inspections is carried out by our secretary John Currell, with the help of a small team. We have found that the inspections are very useful in identifying at an early stage those plots that need extra attention; thus avoiding greater difficulties in the future. John will be conducting an early spring inspection to keep us on our toes. I would also like to remind you that any sizeable constructions such as sheds or greenhouses should not be erected without first obtaining permission from the secretary. Additionally we do not want to see accumulations of old tyres, wooden panels, carpets, old glass windows and other junk. These items may be useful (for weed suppression) but should be removed from your plot once their purpose has been served.

We do have a waiting list for plots; so, if you are considering down-sizing please let John know before the end of the season so that we can make best use of the site.

SITE MAINTENANCE

General site maintenance is led by Francis Biggerstaff, ably assisted by Robin Beattie. We now have a petrol mower and a rotavator available for use by tenants for a small fee to cover the cost of petrol. If you want to make use of these tools please contact Francis on site who will show you where they are kept and how to record usage. Fees of £1 per session for the mower and £5 for the rotavator will be payable to Neville.

We do intend to re-stock the communal manure heaps but this will be done when Francis and Robin determine that the central track is in suitable condition, so that the gates may be open to allow access for the tractor and trailer. Likewise, anyone considering making deliveries to their plots using cars, vans etc should first check with Francis or Robin to see when access will be permitted.

Bonfires are always an emotive issue and we have already received a complaint this year from a neighbouring householder concerned that they may again suffer a summer of smoke annoyance. It is important that we are considerate to our neighbours and consider wind direction before lighting up. This also applies if you are likely to inconvenience other ploholders working on site.

You should preferably also wait until early dusk but perhaps more importantly don't try to burn wet or green waste and certainly not plastics or other non-vegetable matter.

The maintenance team will shortly commence recovering the overgrown plot 3A using a digger to grub out tough plants and shrubs. If any of you would like rhubarb crowns please have a word with Francis or Robin.

WEBSITE and NOTICEBOARDS

The website (wendoverashbrookallotments.weebly.com) is proving popular and Rebecca Miller continues to develop the site with the assistance of a small group. We hope to include regular growing tips and advice relating to experiences on our allotments and Rebecca would welcome details and photographs of successes and failures.

The notice boards are also an important source of information and we will continue to post details of dates for social events, items for sale and general information and notices.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Our social events in 2015 were very well attended and at the time of writing this I understand that Derek Patton will once again organise Saturday morning gatherings where you can have a cup of coffee or tea, a slice of cake and swap plants and generally have a chat.

The dates for this year are the first Saturday each month starting in May, with the exception of August when many folk will be away on holiday. The dates chosen are:

7th May
4th June
2nd July.....
and rent day in September

Please contact Derek by email (derekpatton@email.com) if you are willing to help on the day or can provide cakes etc.

Best wishes for a successful growing season

Bob Bulpett – Chairman WAAA

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